



INTERNATIONAL
OIL POLLUTION
COMPENSATION
FUNDS

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| 1992 Fund Executive Committee | 92EC55 | |
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| 1992 Fund Working Group 6 | 92WG6/4 | |
| 1992 Fund Working Group 7 | 92WG7/1 | |

SECRETARIAT MATTERS

INTERNSHIPS WITHIN THE SECRETARIAT

Note by the Secretariat

Summary:

From time to time the Secretariat receives requests for internships from individuals and Member States. In the light of an analysis of such requests and subsequent suggestions by Member States, the Secretariat developed a pilot internship programme which was presented to the October 2010 session of the 1992 Fund Assembly for consideration.

At that session, the 1992 Fund Administrative Council, acting on behalf of the 1992 Fund Assembly, endorsed the Secretariat's proposal regarding the content and format of the pilot programme which would be offered to a maximum of ten candidates, nominated by 1992 Fund Member States and that participants would be self-funded.

In July 2011 a circular calling for nominations was sent to 1992 Fund Member States. A total of ten nominations were received by the deadline of 26 August 2011. All ten nominees were accepted and a pilot internship training programme took place in London from 21 to 25 November 2011.

The Secretariat was supported in delivering the programme by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the International Association of Independent Tanker Owners (INTERTANKO), the International Group of P&I Clubs (International Group) and the International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation Limited (ITOPF).

The feedback results were largely positive with a suggestion that more time be given to the practical exercises.

The Director proposes to continue to run the internship programme on an annual basis. He proposes, however, that it be called the 'IOPC Funds' Short Course' to reflect more accurately its nature.

Action to be taken:

1992 Fund Assembly

The 1992 Fund Assembly is invited to

- (a) to endorse the Director's proposal to continue to run the internship programme (to be called the 'IOPC Funds' Short Course') on an annual basis; and
- (b) to give him any other instructions as it may deem appropriate.

1 Background information

- 1.1 From time to time the Secretariat receives requests for internships from individuals and Member States. In the light of an analysis of such requests and subsequent suggestions by Member States, the Secretariat developed a pilot internship programme which was presented to the October 2010 session of the 1992 Fund Assembly for consideration (document IOPC/OCT10/7/1/2).
- 1.2 While the Secretariat has in the past accommodated some requests from individuals and Member States for fact-finding visits regarding specific aspects of the functioning of the IOPC Funds and the international compensation regime in general, no formal programme allowing internships within the Secretariat existed.
- 1.3 The 1992 Fund Administrative Council, acting on behalf of 1992 Fund Assembly, endorsed the Secretariat's proposal regarding the content and format of a pilot programme. The Administrative Council also decided that nominations, for a maximum of ten candidates, were to be submitted by 1992 Fund Member States and that participants were to be self-funded. The Administrative Council instructed the Secretariat to report the results of the pilot scheme to the 1992 Fund Assembly at a future session, in order to assess its success and discuss the potential of opening the programme to other participants (document IOPC/OCT11/7/5).
- 1.4 A circular inviting nominations for the internship programme was sent to 1992 Fund Member States in July 2011 calling for candidate nominations to be submitted by 26 August 2011 (see Circular 92FUND/Circ.76). A total of ten nominations were received from the following Member States: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Brunei Darussalam, Greece, Ireland, Latvia, Norway, Philippines, Poland and the Republic of Korea. All ten nominees were accepted on the programme.

2 Pilot internship programme

- 2.1 The pilot internship programme took place from 21 to 25 November 2011 and was attended by nine participants nominated by Member States. The nominee for Brunei Darussalam was unfortunately unable to attend.
- 2.2 The Secretariat was supported in delivering the programme by representatives of IMO, INTERTANKO, the International Group and ITOFF.
- 2.3 In addition to hosting the event, the IOPC Funds' Secretariat presented its structure, activities and responsibilities with speakers from all Departments, including presentations on the various types of claims and the assessment process as well as practical exercises relating to contribution calculations, link of causation, technical reasonableness and other tests, and on preparing and assessing a claim.
- 2.4 The representative of IMO presented the work of that Organization on the full spectrum of conventions and maritime regulations which have been developed within that Organization, and alongside which the Civil Liability and Fund Conventions operate.
- 2.5 The representative of INTERTANKO presented information on the global tanker fleet, trading patterns and their future developments as well as measures being taken to reduce and limit the frequency and scale of spills through tanker design and training.
- 2.6 An outside visit was made to the International Group of P&I Clubs where the role of the marine insurance industry, concepts of mutual insurance and the function and role of the International Group reinsurance arrangements was explained. Information was provided on how the P&I Clubs deal with incidents under the Civil Liability Convention and the close working relationship facilitated by the Memorandum of Understanding between the P&I Clubs of the International Group and the IOPC Funds. They also explained the rationale and concept behind the additional voluntary schemes

of Small Tanker Oil Pollution Indemnification Agreement (STOPIA) 2006 and Tanker Oil Pollution Indemnification Agreement (TOPIA) 2006. One International Group Club (the UK P&I Club) separately hosted the participants and explained the workings and operations of a P&I Club and the relevance of the individual Clubs to the compensation system.

- 2.7 A visit was also made to ITOPF where representatives of that organisation explained the role of experts which they and others provide throughout an incident. They explained what happens during the initial stages of an incident where experts provide advice and gather information on the response operations, impacts, scale and scope of potential claims. They also presented examples of the activities conducted in the later stages, such as collecting data relating to *inter alia*, fisheries and tourism, to assist in the assessment and preparation of reports on individual claims for consideration by the P&I Clubs and the IOPC Funds.
- 2.8 The Secretariat believes that the contributions of these four organisations were very important to the programme and allowed participants to understand the inter-relationships and common objectives of all stakeholders which are particularly important in tanker incidents where the Civil Liability and Fund Conventions operate.
- 2.9 At the end of the programme, the participants were asked to complete a feedback form, the results of which were positive. Overall the participants expressed their satisfaction with the programme and its content and only small changes were suggested for future programmes. The only common suggestion made to improve the programme was a desire for more time for the practical exercises.
- 2.10 The participating organisations were also asked to comment on the programme and if they felt it should be repeated. All expressed satisfaction with the level of interest and enthusiasm of the delegates and stated they would be happy to participate in further programmes of this type in the future.

3 Director's proposal

- 3.1 As a result of the satisfactory feedback received for the programme, the Director proposes to continue to run the internship programme on an annual basis. He proposes, however, that it be called the 'IOPC Funds' Short Course' in order to reflect its nature more accurately.
- 3.2 It is further proposed that the short course continue to be offered to a maximum of ten candidates, nominated by 1992 Fund Member States, and that participants would be self-funded. Should the programme become oversubscribed, the Secretariat would manage the selection process so that past participation and value to the Member States were taken into account.
- 3.3 In the Director's view, the costs to the Secretariat should be limited to the time and effort of its own staff and provision of catering during the programme.

4 Action to be taken

1992 Fund Assembly

The 1992 Fund Assembly is invited to

- (a) take note of the information contained in this document;
 - (b) to endorse the Director's proposal to continue to run the internship programme (be called the 'IOPC Funds' Short Course') on an annual basis; and
 - (c) to give him any other instructions as it may deem appropriate.
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